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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 2 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its bloody military campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying Power has relentlessly continued to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people under its occupation. Since my last letter to you, dated 26 December 2002, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 15 Palestinian civilians, including 7 children throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In the early morning hours today (Palestine time), more than 20 Israeli tanks, supported by armoured vehicles, helicopter gunships and bulldozers, raided the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, demolishing 28 homes belonging to Palestinian families. Israeli occupying forces also raided the refugee camps of Briej and El-Mughazi in the Gaza Strip. This Israeli raid on such densely crowded refugee camps caused extensive damage and destruction to Palestinian infrastructure and property. This illegal measure taken by the occupying Power represents an act of collective punishment, in flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 1 January 2003, the Israeli occupying force killed three young Palestinians. The three boys, ages 14 through 16, were shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces in Gaza. It has become apparent that wilful killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, have become a pattern of behaviour by Israeli occupying forces. The number of Palestinian children being killed at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces is not only alarming, but, even worse, continues to increase at an unprecedented level. The occupying Power must be held accountable for this war crime and for all other war crimes and atrocities committed against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

03-20046 (E) 020103

I have also to inform you of additional criminal actions committed by Israeli occupying forces. On Monday, 30 December 2002, 17-year-old Imran Abu Hamidiya was abducted by Israeli occupying forces and was found dead in a pool of blood on the following day. The cause of death was due to extensive beatings to the face and head. This cruel behaviour by Israeli occupying forces has occurred far too many times and must not be allowed to continue.

We once again reiterate the urgent need for the international community to take action to address all of the above-mentioned serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people. We also urge the Security Council to uphold its duties for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council must take measures to bring an immediate end to the continuing Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

The present letter is in follow up to my previous 151 letters to you regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 December 2002 (A/ES-10/209-S/2002/1426), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, as indicated above, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 15 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,039 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Friday, 27 December to Thursday, 2 January 2003)

Friday, 27 December 2002

1. Faheem Abdel Qader Sulieman Maroh
2. Mohammed Mustafa Hassan Shaheen
3. Ahmed Ayed Ahmed Al-Faqeeh

Saturday, 28 December 2002

Haneen Abdel Aziz Abu Suliman (9 years old)

Sunday, 29 December 2002

Abdel Kareem Yasser Salemen (8 years old)

Monday, 30 December 2002

1. Hussein Mahmoud Al-Tamimi
2. Ibrahim Eissa Mohammed Faraj Alah
3. Asem Fuad Abdel Rahman Masaad
4. Jamal Zuhair Yussef Ziareh

Tuesday, 31 December 2002

1. Hassan Khalil Abu Al-Saeed
2. Imran Abu Hamidiya

Wednesday, 1 January 2003

1. Mohammed Attyeh Dawas (14 years old)
2. Tareq Ziad Dawas (15 years old)
3. Jihad Jouma'a Abed (16 years old)

Thursday, 2 January 2003

Abdel Rahman Samer Abu Baker (10 years old)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,039.

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Security Council

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to relentlessly commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people. The bloody and vicious military campaign being waged by the Israeli occupying forces since September 2000 throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues unabated with mounting casualties and vast devastation in all spheres of Palestinian life. Indeed, the government of Ariel Sharon continues to vehemently reject and destroy any options for peace in both words and actions.

In this regard, Mr. Sharon's latest rejection of peace efforts was evident in recent comments made by the Israeli Prime Minister concerning the Quartet of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the European Union and the United Nations. In response to a question about the Quartet and its road map for peace, Mr. Sharon stated, "The Quartet is nothing. Don't take it seriously. I don't think the United States takes it seriously." Such comments are indicative of the arrogance of the Israeli government and its disdain and disrespect for the diplomatic efforts being undertaken by the above-mentioned members of the Quartet towards a political solution to this ongoing tragic conflict. Moreover, they are reflective of Mr. Sharon's constant rejection and ridicule of all peace efforts and his preference instead to continue the military campaign against and control of the Palestinian people.

That Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people has not let up for one single day since it began on 28 September 2000, intensifying in both scope and scale under Mr. Sharon's stewardship. Since my last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces continued to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilian population, killing more than 26 Palestinians, including several children and a mentally disabled man, in various assaults throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory over nearly three weeks. Many of those that have been killed were shot in the back by the Israeli occupying forces, a fact reflecting the extreme

03-21835 (E) 220103

brutality and indiscriminate nature of Israeli assaults, using live ammunition and all means of heavy weaponry, against defenceless Palestinian civilians.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to wreak havoc and destruction all throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, demolishing homes and properties and causing extensive damage to vital infrastructure. Indeed, today, in one of the largest demolitions carried out by the occupying Power, the Israeli occupying forces, using several bulldozers guarded by nearly 300 soldiers, razed 62 shops and market stalls in the Palestinian village of Nazlat Issa in the vicinity of Tulkarem. The occupying forces claimed that the decision to demolish the shops was taken because they were built without permits. As such, not only has the occupying Power decided to physically reoccupy areas that were under full Palestinian control according to the agreements reached, but it appears that it has now decided to also take control of civil matters in these areas. Moreover, this most recent act of collective punishment against the Palestinian people has been viciously carried out in addition to the almost daily demolition of Palestinian homes by the occupying forces, such as those carried out recently in Occupied East Jerusalem in the Silwan, Abu Tor and Ras al-Amud neighbourhoods, and in Al-Khalil. These illegal practices have left thousands of Palestinians homeless and have destroyed the livelihood of thousands of other Palestinians. Such practices, in addition to the continuing restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods, have served only to exacerbate the terrible socio-economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, worsening the already dire humanitarian crisis being faced by the Palestinian people.

In addition to the killings, destruction and collective punishments perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces, the Palestinian people continue to be subjected to ongoing harassment, violence and destruction committed by illegal Israeli settlers. In this regard, just two days ago, on Sunday, 19 January, a group of settlers in Al-Khalil attacked several Palestinian homes in the city, breaking windows and property and harassing the Palestinian residents as they rampaged through the area. These armed colonial settlers, who number more than 400,000 persons living in illegal Israeli settlements on confiscated land throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have been allowed by the occupying Power to terrorize the Palestinian people and to kill, destroy and steal with impunity. Their illegal presence and actions, as part of an active campaign of Israeli settler colonialism, only further compound the continuous suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the occupying Power.

The present letter is in follow-up to my previous 152 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 January 2003 (A/ES-10/210-S/2003/1), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 26 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,065 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 2 January to Tuesday, 21 January 2003)

Thursday, 2 January 2003 (in addition to the name included in our letter of 2 January)

Sami Mohammed Samir Zeidan

Tuesday, 7 January 2003

1. Eyad Mohammed Abu Zayid
2. Baker Mohammed Khadura
3. Naseem Hassan Abu Mleh

Wednesday, 8 January 2003

1. Ayman Mohammed Hanediq
2. Ahmed Mowafak Ajjaj (18 years old)
3. Mahmoud Ahmed Moayad Hamdan (died from wounds sustained on 18 December 2002)

Friday, 10 January 2003

Tarik Hasan Abu Jado (16 years old)

Saturday, 11 January 2003

Basman Omar Al-Shaneer

Sunday, 12 January 2003

1. Abdellatif Suleiman Wadi
2. Ali Thahir Nassar
3. Hazim Adnan Al-Tamimi
4. Mohammed Hammad Kawareh
5. Abdelrahman Mohammed Al-Najjar (16 years old)

Monday, 13 January 2003

1. Eyad Salem Abu Sha'ar (died from wounds sustained earlier)
2. Jamal Mahmoud Abu Al-Qombuz (18 years old)
3. Kareem Tayseer Al-Mughani
4. Rami Mustafa Abu Baker

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,065 martyrs.

Wednesday, 15 January 2003

1. Mohyideen Hamzeh Mubarak (17 years old)
2. Hazza' Kassam Shadid (17 years old)
3. Ribhi Hosni Zakarna

Friday, 17 January 2003

Mahmoud Yassin Al-Jamasi

Saturday, 18 January 2003

1. Hamzeh Awad Al-Qawasmi (18 years old)
2. Abdelfattah Urabi Mansour

Monday, 20 January 2003

Ammar Mohammed Alayan (died from wounds sustained earlier)

Tuesday, 21 January 2003

Mahmoud Ahmed Amer (died from wounds sustained earlier)

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 27 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wreak havoc throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, killing people and destroying homes and properties as it persists in its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian people. As it relentlessly pursues this military campaign, the occupying Power continues to commit horrific war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian civilian population under occupation.

In the pre-dawn hours of yesterday, Sunday, 26 January 2003, the Israeli occupying forces launched massive assaults against Gaza City. The occupying forces carried out the deepest raids in the Gaza Strip, which is supposed to be under full Palestinian control under the agreements reached, since the start of the Israeli military campaign in September 2000. Dozens of Israeli armoured carriers, tanks and bulldozers, backed by helicopter gunships firing missiles, raided the city from three directions. At least 100 workshops were destroyed by the Israeli occupying forces, who used dynamite to blow up the buildings, including mechanical workshops, metal shops, carpentry shops, clothing manufacturing shops, grocery shops and dozens of other shops located in the market area on the main street of the Zeitun neighbourhood in Gaza City. In addition, several Palestinian homes were destroyed and numerous roads, telephone and electricity lines and at least four bridges in the area were damaged by the occupying forces. By the end of the assault, the Israeli occupying forces had not only caused vast destruction in the area, but had also killed 13 Palestinians and wounded dozens of others. Moreover, that same day, the occupying forces killed an 8-year-old Palestinian boy, Ali Talab Al-Ghareer, and wounded his 6-year-old brother, Ala', as they played on the outskirts of the Rafah refugee camp.

03-22672 (E) 280103

While Israel, the occupying Power, has claimed that this massive attack was launched to destroy weapons manufacturing facilities, it is starkly evident, from the number and type of facilities destroyed, that the real Israeli aim is the destruction of all Palestinian capabilities, whether they be manufacturing, economic or otherwise. As a result, the livelihood of thousands of Palestinians has been destroyed, with more than half of the population now living below the poverty line and suffering and hardship deepening with each passing day. Indeed, since the start of this brutal military campaign, the Israeli occupying forces have clearly sought to inflict as much damage and loss as possible on the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This has been achieved through countless military assaults on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, the wanton destruction of homes, properties and vital infrastructure and the continuous siege on Palestinian areas, including the imposition of the severest restrictions on the movement of persons and goods and of round-the-clock curfews. The ongoing siege has been effected through the repeated reoccupation of Palestinian areas by the Israeli occupying forces, specifically in the West Bank.

It now appears as though the occupying forces are preparing to launch a full-scale reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. In this regard, the Israeli Minister of Defense, Mr. Shaul Mofaz, when questioned with regard to Israel's intentions towards Gaza, including a possible reoccupation, stated, "I think we must keep all our options open. Even this option of taking over the Strip was considered in the past and is still being considered. We will decide when to carry it out". Such threats by Mr. Mofaz, who has previously been implicated in war crimes, must be taken seriously, particularly in light of the actions carried out by the Israeli occupying forces in the 28 months since this military campaign began. An Israeli reoccupation of the densely populated Gaza Strip will only cause more death, destruction and devastation for the Palestinian people. This cannot be allowed to occur.

We call upon the Security Council to take all necessary measures to bring a halt to the Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian people. The civilian population under Israel's occupation must be protected as Israel continues daily to commit serious violations and grave breaches all norms of international law and international humanitarian law as it carries out this vicious military campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Security Council must uphold its duty for the maintenance of international peace and security as the current situation threatens to fuel even more violence and to further destabilize the area and potentially destabilize the region as a whole.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 153 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 January 2003 (A/ES-10/211-S/2003/74), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, in the six days since my last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 23 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs

to 2,088 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 27 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 23 January 2003, through Monday, 27 January 2003)

Thursday, 23 January 2003

Ahmed Anwar Saqwr (18 years old) (died from wounds sustained earlier)

Friday, 24 January 2003

1. Suad Hassan Masoud Jawadallah
2. Ayman Rashid Hilmi Hinawi
3. Nour Eldin Ahmed Abdelfatah Ezreqat
4. Mohammed Selim Al-Masdar
5. Fatma Mohammed Darwish Al-Mashharawy

Saturday, 25 January 2003

1. Hassan Yussef Fayad
2. Khalil Mohammed Jad

Sunday, 26 January 2003

1. Ashraf Sameeh Kaheel
2. Mohammed Rashad Yussef Obeid
3. Ahmed Hasan Saleh Al-Fayoumi
4. Wisam Fayez Yussef Hasan Mutair
5. Mohammed Akram Badawi Al-Nakhaleh
6. Ala' Zuhair Rizq Khalifeh
7. Rami Fathi Hasan Issa
8. Eyad Jibril Akawi (18 years old)
9. Mustafa Marwan Waleed Rahmi
10. Ahmed Shahadeh Ahmed Abed
11. Khaled Ali Hasan Shaloof (17 years old)
12. Ayman Yussef Al-Hatab (16 years old)
13. Ahmed Tayseer Awad
14. Ali Talab Al-Ghareer (8 years old)

Monday, 27 January 2003

Sami Mahmoud Zu'rob

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,088 martyrs.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 30 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people under its occupation. In waging this vicious military campaign, the Israeli occupying forces continue to kill and wound civilians, destroy properties and impose and inflict collective punishments on the Palestinian people on a daily basis.

In the two days since my last letter and in the wake of the recent Israeli election in which Mr. Ariel Sharon maintained his leadership of the Israeli government, the Israeli occupying forces have killed several Palestinians, including children, and have continued to destroy Palestinian properties on a wide scale. On Tuesday, 28 January, the occupying forces killed four Palestinians in a raid on the city of Jenin, and wounded one Palestinian journalist, in addition to the killing of three Palestinians in Gaza earlier in the pre-dawn hours of that day. Yesterday, the Israeli occupying forces committed another such willful killing, when they shot dead an 18 year-old Palestinian boy, Nahed Abu Dahrouj, who had driven his flock near Israeli bulldozers that were destroying Palestinian crops in the area in Gaza.

Moreover, today, in the city of Al-Khalil, the Israeli occupying forces raided numerous Palestinian homes and offices and destroyed an entire vegetable market by bulldozing an estimated 100 stands in the city's open-air market. This destructive act of collective punishment is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Further, this action has been committed as part of the overall Israeli policy aiming to destroy all means of livelihood for the Palestinian people; a policy that has caused the virtual collapse of the Palestinian economy. The tragic status of the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people is one that has been widely document by the United Nations as well as by various international humanitarian organizations. The dire humanitarian crisis being faced by the Palestinian people can only worsen with the continuing perpetration of such Israeli crimes and violations. At the same time, the crippling

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and destructive Israeli military siege and imposition of curfews on most Palestinian cities continues unabated.

This crisis situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, can only continue to deteriorate as long as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to believe that it can act against the civilian population under its occupation with impunity. As such, war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human right violations will continue to be perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people, whose suffering and losses will only continue to deepen as they await action by the international community to bring this situation to an end. In this regard, the international community, particularly the Security Council, must take the necessary measures to compel Israel to halt its military campaign and abide by international law, international humanitarian law and the resolutions of the United Nations.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 154 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 January 2003 (A/ES-10/212-S/2003/101), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 12 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,100 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 30 January 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of the martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 28 January 2003, through Thursday, 30 January 2003)

Tuesday, 28 January 2003

1. Ehab Mohammed Salama (17 years old)
2. Sabrin Mohammed Salama (12 years old)
3. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Atl
4. Rashad Bassam Fuad Urabi
5. Nidal Mohammed Kastoni (17 years old)
6. Mohammed Abdelfattah Ahmed Al-Tubasi
7. Yussef Saleh Al-Sa'di
8. Saeed Mohammed Maddi (16 years old)

Wednesday, 29 January 2003

1. Munir Abdelhay Bureiqa'
2. Nahed Mubarak Abu Dahrouj (18 years old)

Thursday, 30 January 2003

1. Fayez Jaber
2. Badie' Rafeh Diab Qa'qoor

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,100 martyrs.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 January 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to draw your attention once again to the continuing deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. In this letter, I wish to raise the Committee's concern with regard to one particularly disturbing aspect of Israeli actions negatively affecting the rights of the Palestinian people, which has manifested itself of late.

The Committee has received several reports on the closing down by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), on 15 January 2003, of Hebron University and Palestine Polytechnic University for 14 days, ostensibly as a measure aimed at fighting terrorists and suicide bombers. IDF forces raided offices and laboratories, destroyed and confiscated property and welded shut university gates and doors. The closing has reportedly been extended to six months for the Hebron University and three more weeks, with the possibility of further extension, for the Polytechnic.

The Committee views these harsh acts of collective punishment by the occupying Power as utterly unjustified and illegal, as they deprive 4,200 students at Hebron University and 2,500 students at Palestine Polytechnic University of their right to education. These arbitrary measures also adversely affect hundreds of faculty and university staff who have lost their source of income, particularly now that the Palestinian people are experiencing severe economic hardship. The closure of the two important Palestinian educational centres is bound to deepen the anger and despair of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation. It sends a particularly sombre message to the Palestinian youth that their way to a better future through education is as "road-blocked" as is their daily life in the towns and villages of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It no doubt adds to the mistrust and suspicion between the two peoples and further exacerbates the already dangerous situation on the ground.

03-23191 (E) 300103

Our Committee is appalled by these developments taking place at a time when the international community, through the Quartet, is working hard to stop the violence, resume a meaningful political dialogue between the parties and move forward to a negotiated settlement, with a view to realizing a vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express the hope that you would bring these urgent concerns to the attention of the international community, including the competent organs of the United Nations, and that you would use your good offices with the Government of Israel, so that the present situation could be redressed and the two universities reopened without delay.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

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Security Council

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 6 February 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In blatant violation of all norms of international law, international humanitarian law, human rights law and United Nations resolutions, Israel, the occupying Power, continues relentlessly to carry out its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian people. This vicious campaign has been the cause of thousands of deaths, vast destruction, the crippling of the Palestinian Authority and the untold suffering for the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Not a single day passes in which the Palestinian people do not suffer from the wrath and brutality of the Israeli occupying forces. Not a single aspect of Palestinian life has remained unaffected by this military campaign. Indeed, every sector and every generation of Palestinian society have been severely impacted by the war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, on a daily basis.

Since my last letter to you one week ago, I regret to inform you that at least 15 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. These human lives, ended by the brute and excessive force used by the occupying forces against the civilian population under occupation, included men, women and children. In a tragic incident yesterday in the Gaza Strip, the occupying forces killed a 65-year old Palestinian woman, Kamila Suleiman Sa'eed, when they demolished her home and crushed her to death. According to reports, the woman was partly deaf and did not hear the occupying forces' orders to leave the home. This is not the first time that this illegal Israeli measure of collective punishment, namely the demolition of Palestinian homes, has also caused the death of Palestinian civilians. Such killings and demolitions are among the countless compound war crimes being committed by the occupying Power against the civilian population under its occupation.

Also, late yesterday, the occupying forces killed two Palestinian paramedics at Al-Wafa Hospital for the Elderly in Gaza City. The occupying forces shot through a window of the hospital, killing Abdelkarim Anwar Labid, age 22, and Omar Saad al-

03-24032 (E) 070203

Din Hassan, age 21, as they were working in the hospital. The killing of these two young men represents one of many attacks by the Israeli occupying forces on medical personnel, vehicles and institutions over the course of the past 28 months. Clearly, there is no Israeli respect for the protection accorded to such persons and facilities by international humanitarian law.

As noted above, in addition to the killings of these three Palestinians, the Israeli occupying forces have killed several other Palestinians in other raids and assaults in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, over the past week, including in the cities of Tulkarem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Jenin and Gaza. Throughout this week, dozens of Palestinians have also been wounded in attacks by the occupying forces, using machine gunfire, tank fire and helicopter missile fire. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to abduct and detain Palestinians, many of them arrested during overnight raids.

At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces have continued their destructive rampage throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, bulldozing homes and roads and raiding and ransacking homes and offices. Just today, the Israeli occupying forces raided two office buildings in the city of Ramallah, containing mainly medical and law offices, destroying doors, furniture and files. Further, in Al-Khalil, in addition to the destruction of homes, the occupying forces have blockaded all the main thoroughfares in the city and have subjected the television and radio stations, at least three police stations and two Palestinian universities in the city to indefinite closures. These illegal closures are being imposed by the occupying forces in conjunction with the imposition of a curfew on the city of Al-Khalil as a whole. Such round-the-clock curfews also continue to be imposed on other Palestinian cities and towns, in addition to the constant and severe restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods being imposed by the occupying Power throughout the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The international community cannot continue to stand idly by while the Palestinian people continue to be subjected to the inhumane policies and practices of this foreign occupation by Israel. The United Nations Security Council in particular, in upholding its duties and responsibilities under the Charter, must undertake the necessary measures to bring this tragic and constantly deteriorating situation to and end.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 115 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 January 2003 (A/ES-10/213-S/2003/119), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I once again regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 15 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,115 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 February 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of the martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 30 January 2003, through Thursday, 6 February 2003)

Thursday, 30 January 2003 (in addition to the martyrs in the letter of 30 January)

Ahmed Rasheed Baniouda

Friday, 31 January 2003

1. Hassan Ahmed Hassan Saleh
2. Eyad Khalil Mohammed Musa
3. Tamer Majdi Abdelhady Khudeir (17 years old)

Sunday, 2 February 2003

Abdelrahman Harb Al-Huraini

Monday, 3 February 2003

1. Salem Suleiman Al-Abed Qudeih
2. Rami Atta Ali Abu Shab

Wednesday, 5 February 2003

1. Rida Ahmed Hussein Ghanim
2. Kamila Suleiman Sa'eed
3. Samer Khalid Fuad Al-Zurba (17 years old)

Thursday, 6 February 2003

1. Omar Saad al-Din Hassan
2. Abdelkarim Anwar Libid
3. Ahmed Abdelkarim Hamad
4. Ala'a Mahmoud Hunani
5. Abdelbaki Mohammed Abdelbaki Muslim

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,115 martyrs.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 18 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, as it continues to carry out its brutal military campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The death toll, the injuries and the destruction of homes, properties, infrastructure and lands are tragically mounting as the Israeli occupying forces continue to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people under occupation.

In recent days, the Israeli occupying forces have intensified assaults in the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza City, invading and striking at densely populated areas. On Sunday, 16 February, six Palestinian men were killed and several wounded in an attack on the Zeitun neighbourhood of Gaza City. Also on Sunday, two Palestinians in Nablus were killed by extrajudicial execution by the occupying forces. Eighteen people were also wounded in the assault, including two emergency rescue workers.

The killings and destruction by the Israeli occupying forces continued into yesterday with more than 35 tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, invading Gaza City. The occupying forces attacked and blew up a five-storey residential building, killing two Palestinians and wounding at least four other people. Later in the day, the occupying forces committed yet another extrajudicial execution when they ambushed and killed a Palestinian man, Riyad Abu Ziad, near Al-Bureij refugee camp. Moreover, in the early morning hours of today, the occupying forces carried out another extrajudicial execution with the killing of Mohammed Salman Al-Murr in a village south of Al-Khalil. The Israeli occupying forces also continued to raid homes and to abduct and detain Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian

03-25144 (E) 200203

Territory, with nearly 50 Palestinians, including three women, being detained over the past two days.

Throughout the past week, the Israeli occupying forces also continued the illegal practice of demolishing Palestinian homes. At the same time, the occupying Power maintained its suffocating military siege, continuing to impose severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including round-the-clock curfews on several Palestinian towns and cities. The imposition of such collective punishments, in direct contravention of provisions of international humanitarian law, has gravely impacted the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people. It is widely known that the situation is one of a dire humanitarian crisis that only continues to worsen with each passing day. Indeed, even the humanitarian assistance being provided to the Palestinian people by United Nations agencies and other organizations has been severely hampered by such practices by the occupying Power.

The international community must undertake serious measures to assist the Palestinian people during this critical time. In addition to the provision of very necessary humanitarian assistance, for which the Palestinian people are deeply grateful, the international community must also take immediate measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its vicious military campaign against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority. In this regard, it is incumbent upon the Security Council, in upholding its duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, to undertake urgent measures to address this crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 156 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 February 2003 (A/ES-10/215-S/2003/154), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 31 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,146 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 18 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 6 February 2003, through Tuesday, 18 February 2003)

Thursday, 6 February 2003 (in addition to the martyrs in the letter of 6 February 2003)

Bassem Ahmed Samoudy

Saturday, 8 February 2003

1. Majed Hassan Al-Salibi
2. Soad Mahmoud Hamed

Sunday, 9 February 2003

1. Khatimeh Mohammed Said Alyan
2. Mustafa Ibrahim Adwan (10 years old)
3. Sulieman Ali Ahmed Mikdad
4. Sammi Adel Abdel Al-Salam (18 years old)
5. Mohammed Ezzat Amoum (18 years old)

Monday, 10 February 2003

1. Imad Ali Kassem Mabrouk
2. Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed Qadooreh

Tuesday, 11 February 2003

Ahmed Mahmoud Selim

Wednesday, 12 February 2003

1. Wagdi Mohammed Ibrahim Salman (18 years old)
2. Abdel Rahman Mohammed Rabea Hamdeyeh
3. Hassan Majed Al-Ghoul (8 years old)
4. Aref Mohammed Aref Basharat (13 years old)
5. Mohammed Hassan Shalaan

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,146 martyrs.

Friday, 14 February 2003

1. Ziad Abdel Salam Al-Shaer
2. Mohammed Hamad Qishdeh

Sunday, 16 February 2003

1. Ayaman Kamal Abu Zanat
2. Mohammed Samer Abdel Hamid Takroury
3. Fras Adeeb Hassan Mabroukeh
4. Nidal Fathi Farahat
5. Mohammed Ismail Salmy
6. Mufid Awad Al-Bil
7. Akram Fahmy Abu Hussein Nassar
8. Ayad Faraj Shaldan
9. Ayman Ibrahim Yussef Mihana

Monday, 17 February 2003

1. Khalil Abdel Wahed Al-Bikry
2. Mohammed Said Khidr
3. Riyad Abu Ziad

Tuesday, 18 February 2003

Mohammed Salman Al-Murr

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 20 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my regret to inform you that, since my letter to you of two days ago, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 17 more Palestinians, including children. Israel, the occupying Power, has intensified its military campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, causing more bloodshed, death, injury, destruction and suffering among the Palestinian people. It is with complete disregard and utter contempt for the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law that the Israeli occupying forces are carrying out this brutal military campaign against the civilian population under occupation.

Yesterday, 19 February, the occupying forces continued to carry out intense assaults and raids throughout the Gaza Strip. In the pre-dawn hours, at least 40 tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, invaded the Shajaiyeh neighbourhood of Gaza City, while another raid was launched on the Tufah neighbourhood of the city. During these attacks, the Israeli occupying forces blew up four metal workshops, ripped out electrical cables, cutting off the electricity supply to the city, and caused damage to several other buildings. In the Tufah area, three Palestinians were killed, crushed to death when the occupying forces were blowing up the workshops. Also among those killed yesterday by the occupying forces were three Palestinian officers killed by helicopter missiles fired at a position held by the Palestinian security forces. In total, 11 Palestinians were killed and another 30 were wounded as a result of the excessive and indiscriminate force used by the Israeli occupying forces during these assaults.

The occupying forces also carried out attacks yesterday in the Old City of Nablus. Israeli soldiers raided homes and took control of several buildings, including two schools. The occupying forces killed two Palestinians during this raid in Nablus, including Mohammed Rabie Saber, a 15-year-old boy. Moreover, since yesterday, more than 40 Palestinians have been abducted and detained by the

03-25464 (E) 200203

occupying forces in the Nablus area. Further, the Israeli occupying forces once again committed an extrajudicial execution with the killing yesterday of a Palestinian man in Jenin in a car bombing that also wounded three others.

Today, the Israeli occupying forces continued to launch attacks against the civilian population, killing at least two Palestinians, including another young boy in Nablus, and wounding several others. At the same time, the occupying Power has erected several roadblocks throughout the Gaza Strip, splitting it into three isolated sections. Moreover, the occupying forces continued to carry out the demolition of Palestinian homes, as well as the imposition of curfews on numerous Palestinian towns and cities, in collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

All of these ongoing illegal practices and measures being carried out by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people must be brought to an end. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot continue to act with impunity against the defenceless and gravely suffering civilian population under its vicious occupation. In this regard, the international community, particularly the Security Council, must take urgent measures to seriously address this tragic situation before even more loss and irrevocable damage is inflicted upon the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupying forces.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 157 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 February 2003 (A/ES-10/216-S/2003/194), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 17 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,163 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem[a] (Wednesday, 19 February 2003, to Thursday, 20 February 2003)

Wednesday, 19 February 2003

1. Amer Mahmoud Al-Dayeh
2. Abdelkarim Shabaan Bakroun
3. Abdelrahman Fazi Al-Qasas
4. Ala'a Nahed Al-Hilu
5. Saeed Nahed Al-Hilu
6. Munzir Marwan Al-Safdi
7. Tamer Darwish Al-Qita'a
8. Iyad Abed
9. Ali Abu Al-Khair
10. Abdelrahim Abu Al-Naja
11. Mohammed Selim Al-Sahloor
12. Nasser Masoud Abu Safyeh
13. Mohammed Rabie Saber (15 years old)
14. Thaer Zakarneh

Thursday, 20 February 2003

1. Mohammed Aref Yusset Ouda
2. Waleed Mohammed Issa Amr
3. Ahmed Abu Zahra (17 years old)

[a] The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,163.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 20 February 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I am writing this letter to express grave concern over a plan of the Israeli military authorities to evict Palestinian residents and seize land in Bethlehem.

The Committee has received reports that, on 16 February 2003, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) distributed military orders to Palestinians in northern Bethlehem, instructing them to vacate their homes and shops in the area near the northern entrance to the city. The army indicated that the order was valid until 2005, but could be extended. The Palestinians believe that these measures form part of an Israeli Government plan that will have their neighbourhood cut off from the rest of the city by a separation wall. The planned wall, at least 25 feet high, will run between Rachel's Tomb and an IDF checkpoint several kilometres to the north and will completely envelope their land and the southern edge of Jerusalem. Israeli Government officials claim that the wall would protect Jewish worshippers visiting Rachel's Tomb. The shrine, however, has always been part of Bethlehem and an important pilgrimage site for people of the three monotheistic religions.

If the occupying Power is allowed to proceed with the construction of the wall, some 3,500 dunams (875 acres) of land in the neighbourhood may be confiscated. Many factories, stores, tourist facilities, a petrol station and a hospital are located in this economically vital area of the city. Moreover, this action would cause a major disruption of the economic activity in the city and the surrounding areas and result in a considerable restriction of the freedom of movement of Palestinians. The latter would also be in clear violation of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995 (annex I, article V, section 7).

Over the past two years, the Committee has been increasingly alarmed by the Israeli Government's efforts at implementing the so-called "seam line area plan", a unilateral separation scheme that envisions various types of barriers, with buffer

03-25521 (E) 210203

zones running to the east of the Green Line. In fact, sections of such barriers are now under construction in parts of the West Bank. In the process, Palestinian homes are being demolished and swathes of lands are being bulldozed and seized. The continuation of this policy is bound to exacerbate tensions on the ground and heighten resentment among the Palestinian population. The plan is also creating artificial boundaries that predetermine the outcome of future permanent status negotiations between the two sides.

As regards the latest developments in Bethlehem, we should not lose sight of the fact that for three years in a row, in resolutions entitled "Bethlehem 2000", the General Assembly came out united in expressing the need for an immediate change of the situation on the ground in the city and its vicinity, especially with regard to ensuring freedom of movement. The Assembly also stressed the need for ensuring free and unhindered access to the holy places in Bethlehem to the faithful of all religions and the citizens of all nationalities. It is now incumbent on all of us to rekindle the spirit that brought us together in 1998-2000 and do everything possible to prevent the drawing of painful dividing lines in one of the most historic and revered places on earth.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express the hope that you would be in a position to use your good offices with the Government of Israel in order to prevent the planned division of the Palestinian city of Bethlehem and to stop the implementation of the separation plan throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights of the Palestinian People

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 24 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its vicious military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, causing more death and devastation with each passing day. Since my letter to you of Thursday, 20 February 2003 (A/ES-10/217-S/2003/201), more than 16 Palestinians, including at least six children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces in a number of attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On Sunday, the occupying forces attacked the town of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, killing Palestinians and destroying properties, including several homes. Israeli tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, invaded the town on Sunday, where the occupying forces killed six Palestinians and seriously wounded several others. It has been reported that the occupying forces even desecrated the corpses of at least two of the Palestinians killed during the attack on Beit Hanoun. Also yesterday in Gaza, the occupying forces killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy, Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Zaher, in a playground in Khan Younis.

At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces continued to carry out raids and attacks throughout the Nablus and Tulkarem areas over the weekend. In Nablus, which continues to be under round-the-clock curfew, the occupying forces raided many homes, particularly in the Old City, conducting house-to-house searches and abducting and detaining more than 20 Palestinians. Moreover, four Palestinians, including a child and an elderly man, were killed and several homes and shops were destroyed during this assault by the occupying forces.

While the attention of the international community continues to be diverted by other matters on the international agenda, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate dramatically. The Palestinian death toll continues to climb and the path of destruction continues to widen as the Israeli occupying forces continue relentlessly to attack the civilian

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population and their homes, properties and infrastructure. Furthermore, the occupying forces continue to carry out all means of collective punishments against the Palestinian people, including the ongoing imposition of severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, home demolitions and the abduction and detention of thousands of Palestinians. Indeed, serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law are constantly being committed by the Israeli occupying forces as they carry out the policies of the government of Mr. Ariel Sharon against the Palestinian people. Such crimes and atrocities against the Palestinian people have continued unabated and only intensified with the passage of time, since the onset of this Israeli military campaign in September 2000. In this regard, it seems tragically clear that without concerted and urgent measures by the international community to address this crisis, Israel, the occupying Power, will continue to act with impunity and brutality against the defenseless Palestinian people under its occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 158 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 February 2003 (A/ES-10/217-S/2003/201), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 16 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,179 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of the martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Friday, 21 February 2003, through Sunday, 23 February 2003)

Friday, 21 February 2003

1. Tarik Mohammed Zaki Abu Rahmeh
2. Musaab Abdallah Al-Sabea
3. Ahmed Subhi Abu Zahra

Saturday, 22 February 2003

1. Ahmed Khalid Abdelraheem Al-Najjar
2. Sami Murtada Halaweh
3. Waleed Majid Al-Masri

Sunday, 23 February 2003

1. Ahmed Eid Afaneh (17 years old)
2. Mahmoud Sarhan Hiweleh
3. Mohammed Ramadan Al-Kahloot (18 years old)
4. Ayman Yussef Abu Shirar
5. Wael Mohammed Al-Gharbawi
6. Yussef Atiyeh Abu Shriah (16 years old)
7. Nasr Samer Nasooh Ja'reh (14 years old)
8. Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Zaher (14 years old)
9. Muaed Mustafa Saleh Salemeh
10. Bara'a Fayez Al-Afifi (16 years old)

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,179 martyrs.